

Texas law if it were written by legislative counsel here in the House of Representatives.

And they took the bill and did a back-of-the-envelope score and came up with a \$3.8 billion savings over 5 years that would be available to the budgeteers had they chosen to accept that. In other words, do medical liability reform like we did in Texas across the country, and you are going to save some money.

It is not a huge amount of money. I know in Washington-speak \$3.8 billion doesn't resonate like some other figures, but it is real money and it is available to us. All we have to do is enact some type of sensible medical liability reform across the country like we did in my home State of Texas.

So I took that language that ran through legislative counsel on the Texas liability law and actually introduced the Texas medical liability law. It is H.R. 3509, the Medical Justice Act of 2007. It is now available. Members may cosponsor it. I recognize in the current climate in the United States House of Representatives it is going to be very difficult to get any type of medical liability reform passed, but at the same time, this is important work and we shouldn't shy away from it. We should at least have the discussion and the debate. Let's clash in the marketplace of ideas here. Here is a system in Texas that is delivering real value to the patients of Texas and to the doctors of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we can't rise to the transformational challenge that stretches before us without keeping the best doctors involved and recruiting and training the best and brightest doctors who are coming behind them, recruiting and training those doctors for tomorrow. This is going to require a near-term, a mid-term and a long-term strategy. Mr. Speaker, we have to work together, both sides of the aisle. This is not a partisan issue. This is going to face every single one of us in our district as we go through this next several years. And we are not going to be able to master the transformational challenge that extends ahead of us without America's best and brightest staying involved and providing care for patients in this country. The best and brightest men and women of medicine, we need to keep them on the front lines. I stress, this is a true bipartisan issue. There is not a single party label attached to this concept.

So let's sit down, both sides of the aisle, and work together to insure a healthy future for all Americans. The bottom line is we have to make certain that doctors are continuing to practice, they are satisfied with their compensation and satisfied with their ability to deliver services to the patients.

You hear the phrase in Washington, "well, we will cross that bridge when we come to it"; in other words, we won't act until we absolutely have to act.

Mr. Speaker, this is a transformational time. I think this calls for a different type of thinking. We are going to have to build a bridge while we are crossing it, not wait until we get there. We are going to have to build that bridge ahead of time, and I think we can.

I visited a group of scientists at the National Institutes of Health and they talked about the challenge of working through the genetic sequence of the human genome and sequencing the base pairs in the human genome. And they started this project in the 1990s, a very labor-intensive project, and they didn't have the Internet. They didn't know that they needed the Internet. Fortunately, the Internet came along while they were in the process of cracking the genetic code. But if it hadn't been the Internet, they wouldn't have been able to share information with other scientists around the world on a real-time basis. And I don't know if by today we would have cracked the genetic code, so an example of building the bridge while you are crossing, and certainly those scientists at the National Institutes of Health really did take that to heart.

Why wait any longer? Why should we keep doctors and patients waiting? Sensible legislation is before us now. Again, I repeat, I urge my colleagues to look at this, talk to me if you have questions about it. It is extremely important for those students who are looking to go into health care as a profession, those in medical school now, those doctors in residency, and again, what I would refer to as the mature physician. It is important to the whole continuum of the timeline of the physician workforce.

We don't want to end up in that day that Alan Greenspan looked into the future and saw a couple of years ago. We don't want to arrive at that day where there is no one there to take care of America's seniors because we didn't pay attention, we took our eye off the ball back here in the year 2007.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and October 23 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. YARMUTH (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. GINGREY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and October 23, 24, and 25.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, October 29.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, October 24.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, October 29.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2206. An act to provide technical corrections to Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) to extend the time period for the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

S. Con. Res. 51. Concurrent resolution supporting "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after school programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the second and third quarters of 2007, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GERMANY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN SEPT. 5 AND SEPT. 8, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	9/7	9/8	Germany		730.00		(³)				730.00
Hon. Wilson Livingood	9/7	9/8	Germany		730.00		(³)				730.00
Dr. John Eisold	9/7	9/8	Germany		730.00		(³)				730.00
John Lawrence	9/7	9/8	Germany		730.00		(³)				730.00
Michael Sheehy	9/7	9/8	Germany		730.00		(³)				730.00
Andrew Hammill	9/7	9/8	Germany		730.00		(³)				730.00
Steve Rusnak	9/7	9/8	Germany		730.00		(³)				730.00
Micaela Fernandez	9/7	9/8	Germany		1,023.34		3,258.31				4,281.65
Committee totals											9,391.65

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

NANCY PELOSI, Oct. 8, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr., Oct. 11, 2007.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Brian Baird	5/21	5/27	Jordan						13,277.15		13,277.15
Hon. Chris Shays	5/21	5/27	Jordan								
Hon. Carolyn Maloney	5/21	5/27	Jordan								
Nan Gibson	5/21	5/27	Jordan								
Lisa Austin	5/21	5/27	Jordan								
Dr. Nicholas Palarino	5/21	5/27	Jordan								
Committee total									13,277.15		13,277.15

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BART GORDON, Sept. 28, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Bart Gordon	7/20	7/22	Greenland		793.00		(³)				793.00
							⁵ 42,428.00				42,428.00
Hon. Todd Akin	7/20	7/22	Greenland		857.00		(³)		4,573.00		4,573.00
Hon. Roscoe Bartlett	7/20	7/22	Greenland		857.00		(³)				857.00
Hon. Phil Gingery	7/20	7/22	Greenland		857.00		(³)				857.00
Hon. Baron Hill	7/20	7/22	Greenland		857.00		(³)				857.00
Hon. Bob Inglis	7/20	7/22	Greenland		857.00		(³)				857.00
Hon. Daniel Lipinski	7/20	7/22	Greenland		857.00		(³)				857.00
Hon. Jerry McNerney	7/20	7/22	Greenland		798.00		(³)				798.00
Hon. Brad Miller	7/20	7/22	Greenland		628.25.00		(³)				628.25.00
Hon. Lynn Woolsey	7/20	7/22	Greenland		797.00		(³)				797.00
LeighAnn Brown	7/20	7/22	Greenland		793.00		(³)				793.00
Louis Finkel	7/20	7/22	Greenland		793.00		(³)				793.00
Jean Fruci	7/20	7/22	Greenland		793.00		(³)				793.00
Dick Obermann	7/20	7/22	Greenland		400.00		(³)				400.00
Elizabeth Stack	7/20	7/22	Greenland		400.00		(³)				400.00
Mele Williams	7/20	7/22	Greenland		808.00		(³)				808.00
Hon. Ralph Hall	8/10	8/11	Jordan		289.00		(³)				289.00
	8/11	8/12	Iraq		0		4,528.05				5,238.05
Kyle Oliver	8/12	8/13	Jordan		289.00		(³)				289.00
	8/10	8/11	Jordan		289.00		(³)				289.00
	8/11	8/13	Iraq		289.00		4,458.05				4,458.05
Hon. Phil Gingery	8/19	8/21	Iceland		1,128.00		(³)				1,128.00
	8/21	8/23	Ukraine		692.00		(³)				692.00
	8/23	8/26	Netherlands		1,251.00		(³)				289.00
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	8/27	8/29	Czech. Rep.		740.00		(³)				740.00
	8/29	8/30	Hungary		284.00		⁷ 9,117.93				9,117.93
	8/29	9/1	Poland		710.00		(³)				710.00
					18,106.25		61,242.03		4,753.00		84,101

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.⁴ U.S. Commercial and military air transportation.⁵ By State Department for entire CODEL in Greenland (16).⁶ With CODEL Pastor.⁷ Commercial (w/CODEL Sires).

BART GORDON, Oct. 5, 2007.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3804. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Commission on Civil Rights, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3805. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7727] received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3806. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3807. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3808. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3809. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the annual report of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for the year 2006, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 78ggg(c)(2); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3810. A letter from the Under Secretary Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Afterschool Snacks in the Child and Adult Care Food Program [FNS-2007-0004] (RIN: 0584-AD27) received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3811. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled "Report of U.S. Citizen Expropriation Claims and Certain Other Commercial and Investment Disputes," pursuant to Public Law 103-236, section 527(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3812. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [PA-149-FOR] received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3813. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery; Framework Adjustment 1 [Docket No. 070827327-7327-01; I.D. 020907E] (RIN: 0648-AT62) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3814. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XC43) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3815. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Catcher Processors Participating in the Rockfish Limited Access Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XC48) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3816. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XC54) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3817. A letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XC52) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3818. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XC46) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3819. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Connecticut [Docket No. 061020273-7001-03] (RIN: 0648-XC21) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3820. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Total Allowable Catch Harvested in Management Area 1A [Docket No. 061228342-7068-02] (RIN: 0648-XC24) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3821. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the project for navigation and dredged material disposal entitled the Eastward Expansion of the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Facility, Norfolk Harbor and Channels, Hampton Roads, Virginia; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3822. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's annual report on the administration of the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327(h); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2197. A bill to modify the boundary of the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in the State of Ohio, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-391). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2094. A bill to provide for certain administrative and support services for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-392). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1462. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the implementation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species in the Central and Lower Platte River Basin and to modify the Pathfinder Dam and Reservoir; with an amendment (Rept. 110-393). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1205. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-394, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 830. A bill to authorize the exchange of certain lands in Denali National Park in the State of Alaska; with amendments (Rept. 110-395). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 783. A bill to modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-396). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 767. A bill to protect, conserve, and restore native fish, wildlife, and their natural habitats at national wildlife refuges through cooperative, incentive-based grants to control, mitigate, and eradicate harmful non-native species, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-397). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 523. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district; with an amendment (Rept. 110-398). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 53. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a long-